

but at the same time, the residents of the District of Columbia are not as free as the other residents of our country—our fellow Americans. In the District of Columbia, we commemorate D.C. Emancipation Day, not only to honor our forebears but to demand equal treatment from our country for the citizens who live in the Nation's Capital.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens who live right here in the belly of freedom do not have the same rights as other Americans although they pay the same taxes and more taxes—I will argue tomorrow and show you the figures—than any other Americans. They endure undemocratic interference even with their local budget—a budget for which the Federal Government, for which the Congress, contributes not one penny—and yet that local budget comes before this body without the Member who represents the local citizens—the Member whose local budget is at issue cannot vote.

As astounding as those elements of statehood are, perhaps none is more dishonorable than the continued sacrifices of Americans who live in the Nation's Capital without having the same representation as other Americans. We are known, perhaps, in the Nation's Capital by “no taxation without representation.” If there is anything by which we could be better known, it is by those who have fought and died since the war that created the United States of America, itself. Who would believe what those figures show?

In World War I, more casualties than from three States. In World War II—now, this is one city of which we are speaking—more casualties than from four States. By the time we get to the Korean war, more casualties than from eight States of the Union. All of that is disproportionate, Mr. Speaker. Finally, when we get to the last great war of the 20th century, the Vietnam war, more casualties from the District of Columbia than from 10 States.

Thousands have died—all without a vote—and yet D.C. citizens have secured the vote everywhere they have fought for their country. They secured the vote for the people of Iraq. They secured the vote for the people of Afghanistan. They secured the vote for citizens throughout Europe and the Mideast. But here, to this day in 2015—more than 150 years after Lincoln freed the first slaves in the District of Columbia—the residents of the District of Columbia are still not free. They will not be free until they become citizens of the 51st State of the United States and until their war dead are honored as the war dead of other States are honored—by going to war on the vote of the people, including of their own Representative, coming back, and being able to vote themselves.

So, Mr. Speaker, on this first day of D.C. Emancipation Week, I ask that the D.C. war dead be honored and that those from the District of Columbia who serve our Nation today be honored with the vote and with statehood.

HONORING PREVENT CHILD ABUSE KENTUCKY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month and to highlight the important work of Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky.

This organization is on the front lines to make sure that Kentucky's children are raised in a safe, loving home and are not abused, mistreated, or neglected. Their staff of eight train thousands of people annually. Their parent education groups, offered in every region of our Commonwealth, serve more than 10,000 people every year. Thousands of pinwheels will blanket the Commonwealth of Kentucky this month, all with the hopes of drawing awareness of child abuse and neglect in our communities, and there is much work to do.

According to the most recent national statistics on child abuse, an estimated 1,520 children died from abuse and neglect in the United States, and that was in 2013 alone. An estimated 679,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect, and those are unique instances. Children in the first year of their lives had the highest rate of victimization, that of 23.1 per 1,000 children in the national population of the same age. Just under 80 percent of reported child fatalities as a result of abuse and neglect were caused by one or more of the child victim's parents.

This is a personal cause for me. As the father of two girls and as the former president of the board of directors for Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, I am incredibly proud of the great work that this group is doing for Kentucky children all year long. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in thanking Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky and similar organizations around the country as we recognize the critical work of these important groups and as we recognize the importance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE ASKING FOR A NEW TRADE MODEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the American people are being kept in the dark by the Obama administration regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

So much secrecy forces us to ask an important question: Have any of our past free trade agreements really been net positive for our Nation and helped our workers? The answer is “no.”

Whether you look at the NAFTA accord with Mexico and Canada, where we are in huge deficit, if you look at the Korean agreement, if you look at basic trade with nations like Japan, which remains a closed market, every single agreement is all negative.

Since 1976, our country has lost 47.5 million jobs due to trade deficits resulting from free trade agreements. During that time, we have accumulated a trade deficit of more than \$9.5 trillion. What a drag that is on GDP. These growing trade deficits that outsource our wealth and weaken our economy devastate communities. Carrying a massive trade deficit has hindered economic growth and has limited our economic recovery by nearly 16 percent just in this past year alone. More and more people are slipping away from the middle class as a result, with inequality at the highest levels since the 1920s. Millions of Americans are losing faith in the possibility of upward mobility.

Let's ask ourselves: What have past trade deals brought Americans?

Just since NAFTA, Americans have lost in the manufacturing sector 5 million jobs, and that is just since the early 1990s—one of every four. More than 57,000 manufacturing facilities have closed—57,000. Washing machines that used to be made in Newton, Iowa—Maytag—now are imported from Monterrey, Mexico. Hoppy bicycles that used to be made in Celina, Ohio, are now imported from Asia. Ohio knows well the cost of fast-track trade agreements that ship out good jobs and “Made in the USA” brands.

Since NAFTA, our trade balance with Mexico and Canada has gone from a \$5 billion annual surplus, creating jobs here in 1993, to a deficit of \$177 billion today. That translates into three-quarters of a million more lost jobs—750,000 more lost jobs—just with Canada and Mexico.

The quality of life for Americans has been declining under these agreements. Middle class America is shrinking as businesses have closed production and have moved overseas. Three out of every five displaced U.S. manufacturing workers have been forced to take a pay cut in order to secure any kind of job, and one out of three workers experiences a pay cut of more than 20 percent. These are among the luckiest workers, as frequently laid off workers over the age of 40 can't even find replacement work.

This is not just a problem for America. Workers in other countries are caught too, as one worker described to me, “like a lobster in a cage, crawling over one another just to survive,” contributing to unspeakable poverty and waves of desperate immigration to the United States from countries south of our border and elsewhere.

Clearly, NAFTA was a failure for America's workers. If we look at the Korean trade deal, which they said would be the salvation, it has worked exactly in reverse. We have already lost 75,000 more jobs to imports coming into our country from Korea. The exports going out have been just a trickle. In fact, our exports to Korea have gone down by 7.5 percent. The Korean agreement was hailed as a wonderful opportunity for the American economy, something we just could not pass

up. Well, take a look at what has happened. We imported 1,288,546 vehicles from Korea in 2014 and only exported 34,186. There are 40 times more imports coming into our country than exports going out. The Korean free trade agreement has been a failure for American workers too.

With these Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations continuing to advance, America should ask: Could it possibly be a good deal for American workers?

We already have colossal trade deficits with some of the countries with which the negotiations are occurring—with Malaysia, with Vietnam, and, obviously, with Japan. The prospective TPP partners use protectionism and currency manipulation to gain unfair advantage, and, in some cases, they fail to regulate appalling labor conditions. These nations will not deliver on the promises made in support of TPP.

History should teach us that we need a new trade model. America doesn't need more job-outsourcing trade deals. The executive branch and, specifically, the National Security Council better start paying attention to the harm it causes when it forgets its global strategies have created undue harm here in the homeland. The people in the United States are asking for a new trade model that creates jobs and economic growth in our country again—I might say robust economic growth—for which the American people have been waiting for almost three decades.

TIME TO ADDRESS THE CRITICAL FUNDING SHORTFALL FOR OUR TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this week on Capitol Hill, there are hundreds and hundreds of people from around the country who are delivering a message: that America is falling apart and is falling behind, and it is time for us to address the critical funding shortfall for our transportation needs.

They could not have picked a better time to come to Capitol Hill. The 10-month extension of the surface transportation legislation is set to expire in 6 weeks. It is the latest in a series of 23 short-term extensions. No nation ever became great planning its infrastructure 9 months at a time.

The Republican budget—passed last month—again proposes to cut transportation spending, which is already inadequate, 30 percent over the next 10 years despite hearing from local governments, business, labor that the Federal Government should be larger in its contribution, not smaller.

□ 1030

The unwillingness to face reality got us to where we are today, falling apart, falling behind. The country that used to have the finest infrastructure in the

world was recently rated 17th, and we are falling further behind.

The gas tax hasn't been increased since 1993, and it has lost nearly 40 percent of its purchasing power. We can't pay for transportation in 2015 with 1993 dollars, but it is interesting that action has taken place on a number of different levels. Over a dozen Senators have been talking about raising the gas tax. Some of my Republican colleagues in the House have agreed that raising the gas tax is the right thing to do.

When I introduced House Resolution 680 in February that would phase in a 3-year, 15-cent gas tax increase, I was joined by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO, truckers, AAA, transit, local government, contractors, and bicyclists—it is the broadest coalition you will see on any major issue—all saying to Congress, Stand up and do the right thing. A gas tax increase is the only solution that is dedicated, sustainable for the long term, and big enough to do the job.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that, while Congress continues to dither, people at the State level are taking action in anticipation that the Federal partnership will be there. Two years ago, I was told it was impractical; it would never fly politically.

Well, what we have seen in the last 2 years, that 13 States—including 7 Republican States—have raised the gas tax. Of the State legislators that voted to increase the gas tax, 98 percent of them were reelected—I would note, a better percentage than the Senate Democrats running for reelection in the last election.

With the support of Congress, this broad coalition, we can actually step up, revitalize the economy. We can strengthen communities. We can put hundreds of thousands of Americans to work at family wage jobs in every State in the Union.

Mr. Speaker, in 1982, Ronald Reagan gave his Thanksgiving Day address, where he pointed out that the gas tax hadn't been raised in over 20 years. He pointed out needs for critical maintenance and construction. He pointed out that raising the gas tax would create hundreds of thousands of family wage jobs. Ronald Reagan called on Congress to come back and more than double the gas tax. Ronald Reagan and Speaker Tip O'Neill and Congress did just that, and America was the better for it.

There is no reason that this Congress cannot demonstrate the foresight and courage of President Reagan and the Congress over 30 years ago and show the fortitude that has been shown in States around the country who are betting that we are going to be there working with them.

I sincerely hope that my colleagues listen to the hundreds of men and women on Capitol Hill telling this story from the perspective of unions, local government, and business. The needs are there. Congress needs to act. The public deserves no less.

TAX FAIRNESS AND TAX EQUITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the recognition and the opportunity to revise and extend my remarks and to address the body of the House.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues all know, this is the week that the American people will strike that check to the Internal Revenue Service to pay their taxes. Now, what has ended up happening through the years, as this tax that came on our books about 100 years ago and was to be a 1 percent temporary tax, has grown and grown and grown, and it continues to eat a greater share of our incomes.

I hear from constituents every single day—every single day—about the unfairness and the overreach of the IRS. They are so fed up with this because what they observe is government continues to grow and the bureaucracy continues to grow, and what happens? It just takes away bits and pieces of our freedom every time that bureaucracy expands.

That is the reason that this week we in the House have set aside time to make certain that we are addressing those concerns that we hear from our constituents. This is a week where we are going to talk about tax fairness, tax equity, and also about overreach, which comes from a government that refuses to live within its means and continues to take more out of the pockets of hard-working taxpayers who are fighting and working so hard to live within their means. I think there basically is something immoral about taxpayers working so hard to live within their means and sending money to a government that refuses to live within its means.

Now, there are some things that we can do to address this issue and things that we ought to be doing, and we are. One is to look at a permanent repeal of the death tax. I am so pleased that Chairman RYAN and Chairman BRADY are bringing these bills forward.

The other that I want to talk specifically about for a few minutes is H.R. 622. This is a bill that I am the lead cosponsor on with Congressman KEVIN BRADY and one that is very important to my State of Tennessee, just as it is to the other States—Texas, Florida, Washington State, Nevada—that don't have a State income tax but that choose to fund their government off of other taxes, sales tax. What this legislation does is to make permanent the ability of citizens, taxpayers in those States to deduct their sales tax, their State and local sales tax from their Federal income tax filing.

Now, this is an issue Congressman BRADY and I have been working on since 2003, and that year we were successful in having the ability to deduct that sales tax restored to your State income tax, your Federal income tax